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## The Blacks in Oklahoma

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The editor's introduction to the volume is probably the best brief treatment of the status of the historical profession today. The rest of the essays are grouped into three parts: "Units of Time and Areas of Study," "Expanding Fields of Inquiry," and "Modes of Gathering and Assessing Historical Materials." The first surveys recent work by American historians on European, African, Asian, Middle Eastern, and Latin American history. The second takes a topical approach, looking at various specialties: social, political, labor, local, black, women's, family, and cultural history. Some of these essays, like the ones on social history and the historiography of international relations, consider topics beyond American history. Others focus more closely on the American experience itself.

The essays in the third division of the book cover oral history, psychohistory, quantitative methods, comparative history, and the teaching of history. The last essay differs from the rest in that it does not reflect recent ferment in the profession. The author laments that professional historians have shown little interest in the teaching of history. To meet the needs of history teachers, Hazel Hertzberg concludes, will "require profound changes in the structure and direction of the profession" (p. 504).

Thus, although *The Past Before Us* serves as an excellent introduction to the excitement swirling around in the world of the professional historian, it ends on a rather sober note. The vast professional enterprise seems divorced from history in the schools and perhaps from the more general needs of society as well. With that possibility in mind, the book takes on a prophetic voice. In describing the present state of the profession, it also sets an agenda for the future.

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*The Blacks in Oklahoma*, by Jimmie Lewis Franklin. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980. pp. vi, 79. Photographs, bibliographic essay. \$2.95.

This volume is part of a unique series in Oklahoma history. In the late 1970s a group of scholars came together and planned the "Oklahoma Images" project. Included in the project is a series of publications collectively titled "Newcomers to a New Land." In these publi-

cations, authors analyze the histories and contributions of ethnic groups who settled within the state of Oklahoma. Hence, brief volumes were written on such diverse ethnic groups as Poles, Czechs, Italians, and Germans, for example. This volume on blacks is also a part of the series.

The author divides his study into three major sections. Part one begins the story of "Life in a New Land." The story rapidly covers the arrival of a substantial number of blacks who came to Oklahoma with their Indian masters. Also Franklin analyzes the white settlement of Oklahoma Territory (and blacks who settled also) and the attempts of certain black leaders such as Edward McCabe to create black towns with the ultimate hope of creating a black state. The author also surveys the social and religious institutions which developed among blacks.

Section two of the study deals with the "Age of Segregation." Therein is highlighted the blacks' struggle for equal education, and the author also develops topics on individual black educational leaders such as F. D. Moon whose career spanned many decades. The author also surveys the disfranchisement of the black community as well as urbanization and the new problems encountered during the Depression. Overall, however, section two stresses segregation and white racism as evidenced by the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the Tulsa race riot of 1921.

In "Farewell to an Old Order," the author emphasizes the civil rights movement, highlighting, for example, the struggle by Ada Lois Spivel to receive a legal education at the University of Oklahoma. Likewise included is a discussion of the George McLaurin case wherein the Supreme Court ruled that McLaurin, a black, could not be discriminated against by the University of Oklahoma. In his latter pages the author continues his coverage of the civil rights revolution, which also stresses the achievements of various black leaders.

This reviewer has only small caveats about this volume. First, limitations of space, set by the author's editors, allowed for only a brief volume. Hence, much of the "meat" in the story of blacks in Oklahoma is deleted. Further, the author does not develop footnotes or endnotes for the volume, although he does include a bibliographic essay. In conclusion, this volume is to be recommended to those studying blacks in Oklahoma.

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